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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-35. (Canceled).

36. (Currently Amended) A method of administering an active agent at one or more of the esophagus, stomach, and small intestine by swallowing a safe and effective amount of a liquid aqueous mucoretentive composition comprising from about 3% to about 20%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide having a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron, a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamines, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof, from about 0.005% to about 3% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof, and from about 70% to about 95% water by weight of the composition, wherein the liquid aqueous mucoretentive composition ~~is a liquid aqueous mucoretentive composition that~~ forms a gel-like mixture upon contact with a mucosal surface, thereby retaining said composition thereon.

37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36 wherein the mucoretentive composition is not further diluted with any liquid prior to administration and the level of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide is from about 3% to about 15%, by weight of the mucoretentive composition.

39 and 40. (Canceled).

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41. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 38 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 36 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.

42. 43. (Currently Amended) An oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition comprising:

(a) from about 3% to about 20%, by weight of the composition, of colloidal particles of silicon dioxide having a mean particle size of less than about 1 micron;

(b) a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives, antihistamines, bronchodilators, topical anesthetics, sensory agents, and mixtures thereof;

(c) from about 0.005% to about 3.0% by weight of citric acid or a salt thereof; and

(d) about 70% to about 95% water, by weight of the composition, wherein said oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition forms a gel-like mixture upon contact with a mucosal surface, and is thereby retained thereon.

44 and 45. (Canceled).

46. (Previously Presented) The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the silicon dioxide is selected from the group consisting of fumed silicon dioxide, precipitated silicon dioxide, coacervated silicon dioxide, gel silicon dioxide, and mixtures thereof.

47. (Canceled).

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48. (Previously Presented) The oral, mucoretentive, aqueous liquid, pharmaceutical composition of Claim 43 wherein the salt of citric acid is sodium citrate.

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